

Mims, Florida
September 21, 1946

Hon. W. J. Moss
Candidate for Congress
132 S. Main Street
Orlando, Florida

Dear Sir :

Prior to the May primaries we mailed copies of the inclosed letter to candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to various offices.

We note that you will oppose the Hon. Joe Hendricks for his seat in Congress from the Fifth District in the coming General Election. We therefore are asking for an expression of your views on the important issues mentioned in the inclosed letter.

We shall be grateful for an early reply, as the Progressive Voters' League of the Fifth District will hold a meeting in Sanford Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10:00 A. M.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Mims, Florida
October 1, 1946

Hon. W. J. Moss
Candidate for Congress
132 S. Main Street
Orlando, Florida

Dear Sir :

On Sept. 21 we mailed you correspondence, in which we asked for an expression of your views on FEPC, anti-lynching legislation, and other issues that are very vital to the welfare of our group. We had hoped to get an answer from you in time to present it to our district meeting in Sanford on Sept. 28, but perhaps the time was too short for you to get your reply to us by that date.

We are now about ready to send out certain recommendations to our voters in the Fifth District. However, it will be impossible for us to make intelligent recommendations with reference to candidates for Congress until we get your reply to our communication of Sept. 21.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Comment : Up to this date (Oct. 21) we have not received a reply to either of these letters.

Times, Florida
October 12, 1946

Mr. J. Harry Schud
Candidate for U. S. Senate
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Sir :

We have read with much interest the detailed outline of your platform on foreign and domestic issues, which was published in the Florida Times Union on Oct. 8. We note, however, that your platform makes no mention of your stand on such vital issues as FEPC, the poll tax, and anti-lynching legislation. We note also that you express clearly your opposition to communism, but you fail to state your attitude with reference to the Ku Klux Klan and other "hate" organizations that are designed primarily to prey upon minority groups.

The issues mentioned above are of primary importance to our group. We feel that a strong permanent FEPC is needed to safeguard Negroes and other minority groups from discrimination in employment. Although Florida voters already have been relieved of the poll tax, we feel that the anti-poll tax bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in other states. We can never have a wholesome democracy so long as the exercise of franchise is limited by such artificial restrictions as the poll tax, white primaries, etc.

The need of a strong federal law against lynching and mob violence is more evident now than ever before. State authorities either cannot or will not take effective action against lynchers. Among the recent examples right here in our own state are the lynching of Cellos Harrison at Marianna, the lynchings of Willie James Howard and Sam McFadden in Suwannee County, and the lynching of Jesse James Payne in Madison County. And just this year Leroy Bradwell, a Negro veteran of Midway, mysteriously disappeared while in the custody of the Gadsden County Sheriff. Only in the lynching of Sam McFadden has anyone been arrested or convicted. Even in this case the Suwannee County Grand Jury refused to return an indictment, and federal authorities could move only under a weak civil rights statute. Thus a man gets off with only a year in jail and a fine of \$1000 for committing first degree murder. So long as these conditions exist in America, our democracy is little more than "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal", and our delegates to the Peace Conference can easily be branded as hypocrites.

We shall appreciate an expression of your views on these issues.

Respectfully yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Mims, Florida
October 24, 1946

Dear Co-workers :

As most of you know, the Progressive Voters' League of Florida was organized in Lake Wales, August 31, 1944, under the auspices of the NAACP State Conference. The League has gradually grown in strength and prestige, and it is now a chartered organization.

The Progressive Voters' League is devoted to the cause of good government for ALL the people. It believes in the principle of "men and measures", rather than blind allegiance to any one political party. The League has devoted much of its energy to the problem of getting Democratic primaries opened to Negro voters, because we fully realize that practically all of our city, county, state, and federal officials in Florida are actually elected in these primaries. The League is designed primarily to stimulate wholesome political activity among Negro citizens. It will study the records and attitudes of candidates for various offices, and will make recommendations to voters on the basis of such records.

The Progressive Voters' League is now launching a campaign for members. Membership cards will be issued to each member who pays a dollar annual membership fee. Fees will be divided on the same basis used by the NAACP : 50¢ to the local organization and 50¢ to the State League. In case there is a district voters' league, the local organization will send 35¢ to the State League headquarters. The State League, in turn, will send 10¢ ~~to~~ to the district treasury.

Membership cards are now available at the State League Headquarters, box 4, Mims. The cards are properly signed, and the local secretary can easily write in the name of each member. Let us know the number of cards you need now. You will keep a close check and be able to return any cards that are not used.

In making membership reports, please make money order to the treasurer, G. D. Rogers, Tampa. Be sure to mail the order to the executive secretary at Mims.

Local political and civic clubs may become affiliates of the State Voters' League and may issue membership cards as directed above. NAACP branches may do likewise, if there is not ~~at~~ a local voters' league organized in your community.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Box 4, Mims

Milton P. Rocks, President
1135 Pierce St., Clearwater

300 West University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida
October 14, 1946

Mr. Harry T. Moore,
Executive Secretary,
Progressive Voters League of Florida,
Box 4,
Hims, Florida.

Dear Mr. Moore :

I wish to thank you for your letter of the 12th. As a Republican my stand on the poll tax and the FEPC should go without question. Time and again I have spoken on these subjects before NAACP meetings over the state.

I particularly refrained in assembling my platform from mentioning any particular matters sponsored by any group so that I would not have to try to satisfy every group. You can appreciate what a dilemma one can get in by doing that. For instance, the Legion, the Townsendites, the Drys, the Farmers Co-operative, Women's Equal Right Organization, the Union, and others have all wanted me to make some mention of their particular interest.

I have been very gratified by the responses that I have received from over the state from your group assuring me of their support.

Sincerely yours,

J. Harry Schad

JHS/my

Copy

Comment :

Above is a copy of Atty. Schad's reply to our letter of Oct. 12. You will note that no mention is made of anti-lynching legislation.

Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Miami, Florida
October 18, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D. C.
Department of Justice

Dear Sir:

We have read with much interest the detailed outline of your platform on foreign and domestic issues, which was published in the Florida Times Union on Oct. 8. We note, however, that your platform makes no mention of your stand on such vital issues as FERA, the poll tax, and anti-lynching legislation. We note also that you express clearly your opposition to communism, but you fail to state your attitude with respect to the Ku Klux Klan and other "hate" organizations that are directed primarily to prey upon minority groups.

The issues mentioned above are of primary importance to our groups. To the NAACP, a strong permanent FERA is needed to safeguard Negroes and other minority groups from discrimination in employment. Although Florida voters already have been relieved of the poll tax, we feel that the anti-poll tax bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in other states. We can never have a wholesome democracy as long as the exercise of franchise is limited by such artificial restrictions as the poll tax, white primaries, etc.

The need of a strong federal law against lynching and mob violence is more urgent now than ever before. State authorities either cannot or will not take effective action against lynchings. Among the recent examples cited here is our own state and the lynching of Calton Harrison at Tallahassee. The lynchings of Willie James Howard and Sam McAdams in Duval County, and the lynching of James James Payne in Madison County, and just this year Leroy Brownell, a Negro veteran of Midway, mysteriously disappeared while in the custody of the Columbia County Sheriff. Only in the lynching of Sam McAdams has anyone been arrested or convicted. Even in this case the Columbia County Grand Jury refused to return an indictment, and federal authorities could move only under a weak civil rights statute. Then a man gets off with only a year in jail and a fine of \$1000 for committing first degree murder. So long as these conditions exist in America, our democracy is little more than "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal", and our delegates to the Peace Conference can be easily be branded as hypocrites.

We shall appreciate an expression of your views on these issues.

Respectfully yours,

Harry T. Moore

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on
public buildings and grounds

July 26, 1945

Mr. Harry T. Moore
Miami, Florida

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Florida Delegation
has been received, regarding the FPC legislation, anti-
lynching bill, anti-Jim Crow Travel bill and anti-poll tax
legislation.

Although I am not in favor of any of these bills
I am glad to have this expression of your views.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES C. McNARY

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on
public buildings and grounds

July 26, 1945

Mr. Harry M. Moore
Miami, Florida

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Florida Delegation
has been received, regarding the WPCO legislation, anti-
lynching bill, anti-Jim Crow Travel bill and anti-poll tax
legislation.

Although I am not in favor of any of these bills
I am glad to have this expression of your views.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES O. ANDREWS

Miami, Florida
June 20, 1945

Florida Delegation
United States Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs :

Negro citizens of Florida are deeply concerned about the fate of four pieces of legislation now pending in Congress. We have reference to the bill to create a strong permanent FEPC, anti-lynching legislation, Anti-Jim Crow Travel Bill (H. R. 1925), and anti-poll tax legislation.

In 1941 the late President Roosevelt, by executive order, created the present FEPC to serve during this emergency. Not only has this Committee done much to eliminate gross discrimination in the employment of war workers, but it has helped to relieve the manpower shortage by inducing employers to use workers because of their ability to do the job, and not because of their creed or color. Now that total victory is in sight, we feel that a permanent FEPC should be created to protect workers from that racial discrimination in employment that is almost sure to come with the return to normal conditions.

Although lynching is not as common now as it was 25 years ago, decent Americans cannot be satisfied until this blot is removed from the pages of America's history. Experience has proven that state authorities either cannot, or will not, take effective action against lynchers under existing laws. When the lynching of a Negro high school boy in Sumner County was reported to Gov. Holland, he practically admitted that he was powerless to move effectively against the lynchers, and when we consider the fact that lynch mobs do not even respect the uniform of the United States Army, it becomes more evident that a strong Federal law is necessary to curb this evil.

It is hardly necessary to mention the inconveniences and humiliations suffered by Negroes traveling in the South under our jim crow transportation system. They are evident on every hand. Negroes of the South are not worried about what some call "racial equality", but we do desire equal accommodations for traveling. Since these are not being provided under our present dual system, we solicit your support for H. R. 1925.

Although passage of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill will not affect Florida voters, we feel that this bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in those states where this restriction still exists.

If America is to take the lead in developing a true democracy in the post war world, she must be able to teach it by precept and example, rather than by mere words. We therefore ask your support for this liberal legislation.

Respectfully yours,

Harry W. Moore

Dear Letter
To Florida Negro Voters

Mims, Florida
November 15, 1945

Dear Co-Workers:

As we go about trying to help organize local units of the Progressive Voters League, this important question arises: "Should Negroes register as Republicans or Democrats?" This question sometimes precipitates heated arguments, because in practically every community you will find some staunch Republican and some loyal Democrats.

In our attempt to clarify this question, we should like to ask a few other questions. Are Negro citizens of Florida suffering more from the discriminatory practices of local officials or of national officials? Who are more directly responsible for the inequalities in educational opportunities, the lynchings, the police brutality, and other injustices suffered by Negroes, our state and county officials or the Administration in Washington? All of these evils can be traced directly to the prejudiced attitude of local officials. Negro teachers are paid less than white teachers with the same qualifications because the county superintendents and school boards have so arranged it. Jesse Payne was lynched on October 10, 1945, because the Madison County Sheriff permitted it. Who controls the election of these state and county officials, the Republicans or the Democrats? Regardless to our party beliefs, we must now face facts. And the fact is that practically every city, county, and state official in Florida is selected in the Democratic Primaries. In order to help select these officials, Negroes must vote in Democratic Primaries. In order to vote in Democratic Primaries, Negroes must register as Democrats.

It is because of the great importance of the Democratic Primaries that the NAACP has spent thousands of dollars to get them opened up for Negro voters in the South. We still are waging a determined fight to win for Negro citizens the right to register as Democrats and vote in the primaries, thus helping to select those who are to have direct control over us. The prospects are bright. The Florida Supreme Court has handed down a unanimous decision that Negroes have a right to vote in Democratic Primaries. And Attorney General Tom Watson has ruled that Negroes can register as Democrats.

If we are to reap the full benefit of these opportunities, we must forget our old party affiliations and register to vote in the election that really counts—the Democratic Primary. Then when the General Election comes, we can vote for the candidates of our choice. Let us remember the words of the poet Lowell:

"New occasions teach new duties

Time makes ancient good uncouth,

They must upward still and onward

Who would keep abreast of Truth.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters League of Florida

Mims, Florida
May 23, 1946

Dear Co-workers:

We hereby call your attention to the Second Democratic Primary, which will be held Tuesday, May 28. A second primary is often necessary when three or more candidates are running for the same office in the first primary. In case neither candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two highest contestants must "run it off" in the second primary.

On May 28, Paul D. Baras will oppose Raleigh W. Petteway for the nomination to the Supreme Court. The Progressive Voters' League endorsed Paul D. Baras in the First Primary and we now urge you to support him in the Second Primary May 28.

We also wish to remind you of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference, NAACP, which will be held in Panama City, June 7-9. Registration headquarters will be at the Elks' Home, Cove Boulevard and Tenth Street. Sessions will be held at St. John Baptist Church on Cove Boulevard, one block from the Elks' Home. The opening session will be held Friday, June 7, at 8:00 P. M. (E.S.T). Lodging will be \$1.00 per night. Those who desire accommodations will please notify Mr. E. W. Edwards, Box 34, Panama City, Florida. Delegates who arrive during the day Friday, June 7, are urged to register from 4:30 to 7:30 P. M.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Mims, Florida
May 23, 1946

Dear Co-workers:

We hereby call your attention to the Second Democratic Primary, which will be held Tuesday, May 28. A second primary is often necessary when three or more candidates are running for the same office in the first primary. In case neither candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two highest contestants must "run it off" in the second primary.

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Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida